

Proposed Community Health Worker Definition

A community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member and/or has a shared understanding of the community being served. This trusted relationship enables the CHW to:

1. Serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery;
2. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current community and healthcare resources; and
3. Build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, coaching, mentoring, social support, and advocacy.

Proposed CHW Core Competencies

- Communication
- Interpersonal skills
- Service coordination
- Individual and community development
- Individual and community advocacy
- Basic teaching skills
- Organizational skills
- General knowledge of healthcare
- Cultural humility

Proposed CHW Legislation

- Define Community Health Workers
- Define Core Competencies
- Direct OSDH to develop approval process to certify curriculum

Critical Healthcare Occupations: Updates

- New methodology based on Oklahoma 2017 top 100 Critical Occupation List
- Develop “Health Care Occupations Report”
- Conduct analysis of report information
- Develop conclusions and recommendations
- Health Care Industry report will be produced as a companion report that includes recommendations

Critical Healthcare Occupations: Previous List (28)

Previous List	
Anesthesiologists	Nurse Anesthetists
Community Health Workers	Nurse Practitioners
Dentists, General	Optometrists
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	Pediatricians, General
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	Pharmacists
Family and General Practitioners	Phlebotomists
Internists, General	Physical Therapists
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Physician Assistants
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	Physicians and Surgeons, All Other
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	Psychiatrists
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists	Radiologic Technologists
Medical and Health Services Managers	Registered Nurses
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	Respiratory Therapists
Mental Health Counselors	Surgeons

New Critical Healthcare Occupations List (20)

Occupations on both previous and new lists (15)	Physician Assistants
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	Physicians and Surgeons, All Other
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	Radiologic Technologists
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Registered Nurses
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists	Respiratory Therapists
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	Occupations on new list (5)
Medical and Health Services Managers	Dental Hygienists
Nurse Practitioners	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists
Optometrists	Dietitians and Nutritionists
Pharmacists	Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
Physical Therapists	Pharmacy Technicians

Critical Healthcare Occupations List

Occupations on previous list that are NOT on new list

Anesthesiologists	Mental Health Counselors
Community Health Workers	Nurse Anesthetists
Dentists, General	Pediatricians, General
Family and General Practitioners	Phlebotomists
Internists, General	Psychiatrists
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	Surgeons
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	

Next Steps

- Produce report of Critical Healthcare Occupations (December 2017)
 - Details supply and demand information
 - Explains data methodology and limitations
 - Includes addendum of competencies and scope of practice for licensed professionals
- Convene workgroups to deeper data analysis
- Research and develop recommendations to implement evidence-based strategies to close gaps
- Address occupations that are not on 2017 list that would be important to a transformed health system
- Produce Health Care Industry Report with recommendations (2018)